

1-1 By: Bohac, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Nichols) H.B. No. 308
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 9, 2013;
1-3 May 9, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Education; May 14, 2013, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 14, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Patrick	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Campbell	X			
1-10 Duncan	X			
1-11 Paxton	X			
1-12 Seliger	X			
1-13 Taylor	X			
1-14 Van de Putte	X			
1-15 West	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to a school district's recognition of and education
1-20 regarding traditional winter celebrations.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
1-23 amended by adding Section 29.920 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 29.920. WINTER CELEBRATIONS. (a) A school district
1-25 may educate students about the history of traditional winter
1-26 celebrations, and allow students and district staff to offer
1-27 traditional greetings regarding the celebrations, including:

1-28 (1) "Merry Christmas";

1-29 (2) "Happy Hanukkah"; and

1-30 (3) "happy holidays."

1-31 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a school district
1-32 may display on school property scenes or symbols associated with
1-33 traditional winter celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas
1-34 image such as a nativity scene or Christmas tree, if the display
1-35 includes a scene or symbol of:

1-36 (1) more than one religion; or

1-37 (2) one religion and at least one secular scene or
1-38 symbol.

1-39 (c) A display relating to a traditional winter celebration
1-40 may not include a message that encourages adherence to a particular
1-41 religious belief.

1-42 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
1-43 school year.

1-44 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-45 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-46 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-47 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-48 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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